

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/822,617
Attorney Docket No. 03226/090001; P5702

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-15, 17-18, and 20-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 17 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8, and 17. Claims 7, 12-14, and 20-21 have been cancelled by this reply, while claims 22-25 have been added by this reply.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-11, 15, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,606,280 ("Knittel") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,345 ("Kuhn"). Claim 7 has been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, the rejection is moot with respect to cancelled claim 7. In addition, independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 17 have been amended to clarify that the voice-translating remote control system comprises a user interface. Specifically, independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 17 have been amended to recite "a user interface configured to display contents of the command signal." Further, dependent claims 6 and 9 have been amended to include limitation "...wherein the user interface comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD)." Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0032] of the instant specification. No new matter has been added by way of the aforementioned amendments. To the extent that this

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/822,617
Attorney Docket No. 03226/090001; P5702

rejection may still apply to the amended, previously presented, and original claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent amended claim 1 recites a voice-translating remote control system. More specifically, the voice-translating remote control system includes a microphone operable to receive a nontrivial voice command and output a nontrivial voice signal, an audio transmitter operably connected to the microphone to transmit an audio input signal to a host system based on the nontrivial voice signal, a signal receiver arranged to receive a command signal transmitted by the host system, a signal transmitter operably connected to the signal receiver to transmit a control signal to an appliance based on the command signal, and *a user interface configured to display contents of the command signal.*

As described in the specification, the command signal is generated by the voice-recognition processor using the audio input signal received from the remote control. The command signal may include information about the identity of the appliance to be controlled and the command to be sent to the appliance. (Instant specification, paragraph [0024]). The user interface, as recited in amended independent claim 1, is configured to display the contents of the command signal. As described in the specification, displaying of the contents of the command refers to *visually* displaying the contents of the command signal in a manner that the user may acknowledge the command and/or make the necessary corrections to the command (which is embodied in the command signal) prior to issuing the command to the appliance. (Instant specification, paragraph [0032]).

Knittel discloses a remote control using trivial speech recognition as described in the Background of the present application. As previously discussed in the Response to Office Action mailed March 12, 2004, the Applicant respectfully maintains that Knittel

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/822,617
Attorney Docket No. 03226/090001; P5702

fails to teach or suggest a remote control system configured to interpret *nontrivial* speech. In addition, the Applicant also respectfully reasserts that Knittel fails to teach or suggest a remote control including a "user interface configured to display contents of the command signal." Specifically, Knittel only teaches that "[i]f a spoken command is still not recognized, the user can be *audibly prompted* (e.g., via the signal generator and audio speakers) of the error..." (Knittel, col. 12, ll. 40-42) (emphasis added). Thus, Knittel does not teach or suggest *visually* displaying the contents of the command signal to the user. In fact, the only feedback provided to the user is an *audio* signal that indicates an error.

Further, Kuhn does not teach what Knittel lacks. Kuhn teaches a remote control system which includes functionality to use voice-recognition. Further, the remote control disclosed by Kuhn includes a display (Kuhn, 16 in Figure 1). However, the display described in Kuhn is *only* configured to "supply prompts to the user as well as information extracted from the electronic program guide." (Kuhn, col. 2, ll. 50-59). Thus, Kuhn does not teach or suggest displaying the contents of the command signal as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Knittel and Kuhn, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claims as amended. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Knittel and Kuhn. In addition, amended independent claims 8, 15, and 17 include the same patentable subject matter as amended claim 1 and, thus, are patentable as well. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/822,617
Attorney Docket No. 03226/090001; P5702

Claims 12-14, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Knittel in view of Kuhn. Claims 12-14, 20, and 21 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, the rejection is moot with respect to cancelled claims 12-14, 20, and 21. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Dependent claims 22-25 have been added by the reply. Support for these amended claims may be found, for example, in paragraph [0032] of the instant specification. Dependent claims 22-25 are patentable for at least the same reasons as the amended independent claims from which they depend. In addition, Knittel and Kuhn, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest remote control including a user interface including functionality to modify the contents of the command signal. Accordingly, claims 22-25 are allowable over Knittel and Kuhn for this additional reason.


U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/822,617
Attorney Docket No. 03226/090001; P5702

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/090001; P5702).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10-14-2004


Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
OSHA & MAY L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

76825_1